

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 216364
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 216364

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CVIS, CSCE

SUBJECT: VISAS FOR SOVIET LABOR GROUP

REF: A. STATE 215377, B. MOSCOW 12319

1. PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE IN DEPARTMENT FOLLOWS:

Q. WHAT HAS HAPPENED ON THE VISAS FOR THE FOUR SOVIES
INVITED TO THE UNITED STATES BY TRADE UNION ACTION AND
DEMOCRACY OF CHICAGO?

A. THE VISAS WERE AUTHORIZED LATE SEPTEMBER 8, AND OUR
EMBASSY WAS INSTRUCTED BY CABLE TO ISSUE THE VISAS.

Q. WHERE WILL THEY GO?

A. THE HOSS PLAN TO HAVE THE SOVIET GROUP VISIT NEW YORK,
CHICAGO, DETROIT, CLEVELAND AND PITTSBURGH. FOR ANY MORE
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INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM, YOU MAY CALL THE HOSTS --
TRADE UNION ACTION AND DEMOCRACY OF CHICAGO - TEL: (312)
922-5560.

Q. ISN'T THIS THE FIRST SOVIET TRADE UNION GROUP EVER
GRANTED VISAS TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES?

A. THIS IS THE FIRST SOVIET TRADE UNION GROUP TO RECEIVE US VISAS FOR A TRADE UNION VISIT IN MANY YEARS. SOME SOVIET TRADE UNIONIST HAVE COME TO THE US ON NON-TRADE UNION VISITS THROUGH THE YEARS.

Q. DOES THIS REPRESENT A CHANGE IN POLICY?

A. YES. IN PART, THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE VISAS WAS A PRODUCT OF THE MCGOVERN AMENDMENT. HOWEVER, A MAJOR FACTOR WAS THE ADMINISTRATION'S GENERAL CONCERN FOR FREER CONTACTS WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT (CSCE).

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THE VISAS HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN ISSUED?

A. NO, BUT I EXPECT THEY WERE ISSUED TODAY IN MOSCOW.

Q. DOES AUTHORIZATION OF THESE VISAS HAVE CSCE IMPLICATIONS?

A. YES. IT REFLECTS OUR WILLINGNESS TO RE-EXAMINE AND CHANGE LONGSTANDING POLICIES IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CSCE. VANCE

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